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A NEW SPECIES OF *OROPUS* CASEY  
(COLEOPTERA: PSELAPHIDAE)

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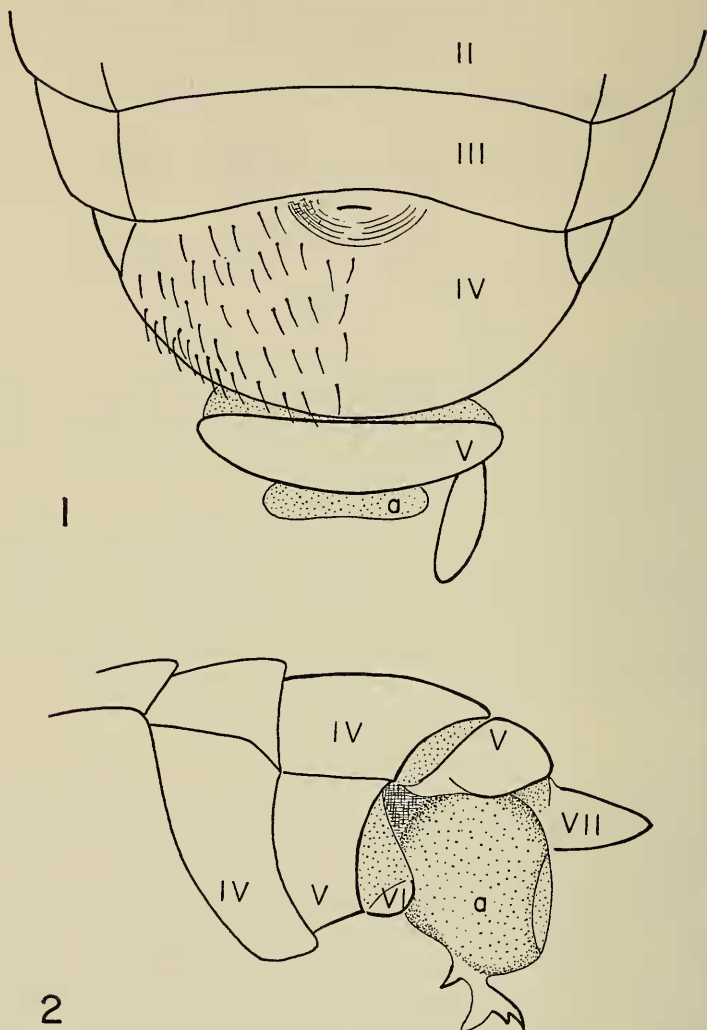
Species of this genus have been recorded only from the Pacific Slope of North America. Specimens of *Oropus* are most easily collected from moist organic debris accumulated in areas of leaf drop. The specimens are generally recovered by processing the leaf litter in Berlese funnels.

A recent revision of *Oropus* by Schuster and Grigarick (1960) divided the genus into two groups based on the length of tergite I in relation to tergite II. The species described in this paper belongs to the section of the revision designated as group B in which tergite I is over half again as long as tergite II and sternite IV is generally void of long setae.

***Oropus helferi*, new species**  
(Figs. 1, 2)

*Male (slide)*: Head  $227\mu \times 363\mu$  wide; antenna  $563\mu$  long; pronotum  $395\mu$  long  $\times 390\mu$  wide; elytra  $436\mu$  long; metatibia  $405\mu$  long; aedeagus  $135\mu$  wide.

Eyes of about 8 peripheral facets; lacking tubercles around eyes; vertexal foveae with inner diameter of  $18\mu$ , on a line behind middle of eyes, separated by twice distance from foveae to eye; postantennal apodemes wedge-shaped, attaining those of vertexal foveae; mandibular rami with 6 teeth left, 7 right; labrum  $91\mu$  wide; length of palpal segment IV including cone  $104\mu$ , with sensory setae  $35\mu$  from base; lengths/widths of antennal segments in microns: I 104/54, II 50/50, III through VIII approximately 27/36-54, IX 42/68, X 45/77, XI 136/91. Pronotal teeth small, blunt,  $R=0.75$ . Brachypterous. Mesocoxae confluent; postcoxal apodemes directed transversely. Tergite I  $292\mu$  long  $\times 450\mu$  wide, median impression of I  $158\mu$  wide



FIGS. 1-2. *Oropus helferi*, new species. FIG. 1.—Dorsal view of terminal segments of abdomen. FIG. 2.—Lateral view of abdomen. Tergites and sternites, II-VII; a, aedeagus.

apically,  $235\mu$  wide basally; II  $121\mu$  long  $\times$   $420\mu$  wide. Tergite III slightly emarginate to accommodate IV, IV  $158\mu$  long  $\times$   $326\mu$  wide; setae on basal development of IV thickened but not

spatulate, other setae not on tubercles; sternite IV lacking median setae; V lacking pits, deeply emarginate distally.

Additional description from point-mounted specimen: Eyes contain about 25 facets. Tergite IV relatively flat, with small polished basal depression behind a minute, setate integumental projection, without microsetigerous area. Sternite IV without long setae.

*Female*: unknown.

*Holotype* ♂ (slide-mount): Mendocino, Mendocino County, California, 19 July 1953, J. R. Helfer. Paratype ♂, Fort Bragg, Mendocino County, California, 5 January 1957, J. R. Helfer. The holotype is deposited at the California Academy of Sciences and the paratype at the University of California at Davis.

*Oropus helferi* keys to couplet 8 of group B in the key to the revision of this genus (Schuster and Grigarick, 1960). This couplet contains *O. fenderi* and *O. acumenis* which have a basal development on tergite IV. These latter two species are deeply concave behind the basal development, whereas *O. helferi* has only a very shallow depression at this location. Another prominent difference is found in the shape of the apex of the basal development.

#### LITERATURE CITED

- Schuster, R. O. and A. A. Grigarick. 1960. A revision of the genus *Oropus* Casey (Coleoptera: Pselaphidae). Pacific Insects, 2 (3): 269-299.